

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA.

Superintendent Mebane's Report to Legislature Forecasted.

A WAY TO RAISE MONEY.

Says 5 Per Cent. on the Gross Income of Railroads Will Pay the Schools \$700,000—Raleigh's New Census The Weather For the Month of November—The Question of a New Superintendent of the State Penitentiary.

Raleigh, N. C., Dec. 8.—Mr. C. H. Mebane, Superintendent of Public Instruction for the State, has made public a forecast of his report to the next General Assembly.

The report is somewhat at length, and considers the question of public education from various standpoints. It is perhaps the most comprehensive ever submitted to the Legislature of this State, and contains the result of much investigation.

That portion of Mr. Mebane's report that will attract most attention is the part wherein he advocates taxing the gross earnings of railroads, the taxes thus derived to go toward the maintenance of the school fund. He announces himself as unqualifiedly in favor of this proposition, and takes high ground in his argument in its favor.

He starts this argument with this italicized assertion: "We must have more money before we can hope to educate the great mass of the people." Most every one will admit that in order to increase the school terms, and in order to secure better and more efficient teachers, we must have an increase of school fund.

He then asks: "Where are we to get the money?" Replying to his own query, he says: "The letters following will show where other States get an abundance of their public funds."

OTHER STATES.

Then follows letters from thirty States, a number of which state that the gross incomes of the railroads are taxed, and in many of which the amount so collected is applied to the school fund. Among the States in which the gross incomes of railroads are taxed are New York, where 5 mills on the dollar is collected; Vermont, which collects 2 1/2 per cent; Rhode Island which gets 1 per cent; Texas where 1 per cent is collected; one-fourth of which goes to the schools; and Pennsylvania, where a tax of 8 mills on the dollar is levied.

He states that while North Carolina has a "sweeping statute on this subject," it does not receive one cent from the gross receipts or gross earnings. The statute providing for a 1 per cent assessment on the gross incomes of railroads, he says was emasculated by the proviso: "No railroad or canal company shall be liable to this tax if its property is taxed."

He continues: "I advise the General Assembly to impose a tax upon the gross receipts of the railroads in North Carolina for the benefit of the public schools. We find taxes upon gross earnings in fourteen States. Why not have it in North Carolina?"

RAILROAD EARNINGS.

"The gross earnings of the railroads in this State are more than eleven million dollars. Suppose we had a law like Minnesota, taxing the roads 3 per cent on gross earnings? What a handsome sum of more than three hundred thousand dollars to give instruction and intelligence to the great army of poor boys and girls now groping in darkness, and who must under present conditions of educational facilities, grow into manhood and womanhood burdened with all the disadvantages of the ignorant. In addition to this, let us have the same tax on gross earnings of telephone companies, telegraph companies, express companies, insurance companies, and then we will have a school fund from these sources of about four hundred thousand dollars. Think of having four hundred thousand dollars added to the school fund by the General Assembly of 1901."

He concludes this part of the report as follows: "The railroads in North Carolina now net five million dollars annually over and above 4 per cent of the real value of their property. These roads could stand a tax of 5 per cent on their gross earnings, which would give us \$700,000 annually, and then leave them \$1,300,000, to carry out of the State. Let us have 5 per cent on gross earnings, and give it all to the school fund."

RALEIGH'S NEW CENSUS.

By the middle of this week Raleigh's new census will be completed. All sorts of guesses are made as to what it will reveal. Some persons express the belief that it will not vary 50 from the census of the government, while others say they think it will show as much as 3,000 difference.

WEATHER FOR NOVEMBER.

The weather report for this State for November was issued yesterday. The month was remarkably fine for farm work. Mild temperatures, with sufficient moisture to keep the soil in good condition caused rapid germination and excellent growth of winter wheat. A very large crop was seeded, good stands were secured and the crop generally looked fine though badly damaged by the Hessian fly in eight counties. The mean temperature was 52.5 degrees, which is 2.9 above normal. The mean in the eastern district was 55.6, central 52.6, western 49.8, the highest 60.6, Southport; the lowest 43.6, at Linville, these being respectively the warmest and coldest places in the State. The highest absolute temperature was 86; the lowest 13. The mean temperature for the State was the highest since 1872. The average rainfall was 4.17 inches, nearly an inch above normal. At most stations the first killing frosts occurred. There were many thunderstorms.

THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

One of the questions which is being talked of just now is who will be the new superintendent of the penitentiary? The Legislature will be searchingly investigating the management this year and last year. The Supreme Court prevented the Legislature from taking control. Since the decision by the court the board of directors have been the merest figureheads. They say as much. There are various surmises as to who will be superintendent. A State official says he would not be superintendent at \$10,000 a year and declares that the penitentiary is the State's white elephant. It would seem to be the best policy to have a legislative committee examine the Virginia, Maryland and other penitentiaries and get at the secret of their success.

GREENSBORO.

THE DISPENSARY WILL PROBABLY BE DISCONTINUED.

Greensboro, N. C., Dec. 18.—It is now said that the Greensboro dispensary will go out of business February 1st. The program is for a bill for its abolition to be introduced immediately upon the convening of the Legislature, the measure granting the dispensary wholesale license until July 1st next, in order to give the institution time to dispose of its stock, etc. Many wish the dispensary to be continued until the 1st of July, the end of the fiscal year, at which time the license will expire, but it is contended on the other hand that the Senator and representatives promised the people from every stump in the county to have the dispensary law repealed at the earliest possible moment, provided the "antis" won in the August primary.

A liquor man who is preparing to open a saloon here gives a rather peculiar reason for wishing the dispensary continued until July 1st. If the saloons are allowed to open in February, he says, he is afraid the municipal campaign in the spring will be fought out along temperance lines, and in the event of a "dry" Board of Aldermen being elected, the saloon would again be driven out of business after the 1st of July.

CHARLOTTE.

POLICE CENSUS OF THE CITY UNDER WAY.

Charlotte, N. C., Dec. 18.—Commencing this morning the police will take a police census of Charlotte. They will act under the supervision of the police commission and by agreement of the Board of Aldermen. Alderman T. S. Franklin has been selected to manage the work.

The census will mean the enumeration, not only of the population inside the city limits, but all residents within the police jurisdiction, which extends a mile beyond the city limits and includes the larger proportion of Charlotte's mill population. It is estimated that this census will show a population of 30,000.

This work will be performed with considerable care, especially with regard to the residents inside the incorporation proper; and a comparison of the estimates made by the United States census takers and the police will be interesting.

"All the king's army and all the king's men" can't change the 18,000 and something approximation now on record in Washington, but Charlotte will be properly elated if the police figure out a population of 29,000 inside the municipality, as is expected.

EDENTON.

LOW TIDE—TWO MARRIAGES—PERSONAL MENTION.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.) Edenton, N. C., Dec. 18.—Mr. W. J. Moore is spending a week here with his family.

Mr. J. W. Branning is in Washington, D. C., on business. Mr. W. J. Leary, Sr., has returned from a trip to the capital city. Col. Beasley, of Baltimore, is at the Bay View.

Owing to the low tide Roper's Mill did not run yesterday.

There were two marriages over at the cotton factory Sunday.

A party of Northern gentlemen are here enjoying shooting quail, etc.

The choir of the different churches of our little city are practicing some pretty singing for Xmas services.

HON. JOHN H. SMALL

SNUGLING CLOSE TO RIVER AND HARBOR COMMITTEE.

(Washington Post.)

When Representative Small, of North Carolina, recites the various projects in which he is interested before this Congress, it sounds like the jabbering of an Indian chief. That is because there are so many Indian names applied to land and sea objects in the Tar Heel State. "Scuppernon," "Pamlico," which Mr. Small says should be spelled "Pamplico," although the government insists otherwise, "Pasquotank," and others of like character stand out prominently in his conversation.

"There are 255 miles of seacoast adjacent to my Congressional district," says Mr. Small, "and more inland sounds than in the domain of any other member of the House in the United States. Cape Hatteras and Cape Lookout are in my territory from which you will gather why I am snuggling close to the river and harbor committee. There are several very important river and harbor improvements, which I hope Congress will authorize in that vicinity."

ELIZABETH CITY.

PERSONAL NOTES—INDUSTRIAL—REMOVAL—A LECTURE.

Elizabeth City, N. C., Dec. 18.—Mr. and Mrs. Harrell, of Philadelphia, are visiting the family of Captain Peter Davis, on Pennsylvania avenue. Messrs. E. P. Fearing and D. G. Brockett, who have been attending the Randolph-Macon Academy at Bedford City, Va., have returned home to spend the holidays.

Mr. J. C. Commander and Mr. A. C. Stokes left for Norfolk, Va., Monday for the purpose of purchasing a horse to be used by the fire department.

The beautiful residence of Mr. D. T. Gallop, on West Main street, is now nearing completion.

Mr. H. H. Lovenstein has rented the double brick store facing Pointexter and Mathews streets, and will occupy same as soon as vacated by J. R. Pinney & Co.

The Rev. P. W. Mallick delivered a lecture at the Colored Industrial School last Thursday. The students are making garments, doing carpentry work and have begun their agricultural work. J. H. M. Butler is principal.

On or about the 28th instant "Billy" Hollowell, our clever comedian, will put on a first-class up-to-date minstrel show for the benefit of our naval reserves.

Court convened Monday at noon. No business was transacted, the judge's charge to the jury taking up the best part of the evening.

Mr. Walter Sawyer, who has been attending the University of North Carolina, has returned home to spend the holidays with his parents.

Miss Mary Wood, of Camden county, N. C., is the guest of Miss Mae Wood, on Church street.

FOR RENT—THE TWO MODERN business buildings, 56 and 58 Water street, now occupied by Sallie Perry and Messrs. Weiser, Elizabeth City, N. C. Possession given January 1st, 1901. Apply to J. C. BROS. PORTSMOUTH, VA. no22-1f.

THE POINTER MADSTONE.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THIS REMARKABLE STONE.

The following, of general interest, we take from the Charlotte (N. C.) Observer:

"To the Editor of The Observer:

"I read with more than ordinary interest the clipping in your excellent paper from the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot of December 1st, together with your editorial comment on the subject of madstones. The celebrated Pointer madstone, which you referred to, is still in our family, being owned by my uncle, Mr. Samuel Pointer, who resides near Roxboro, Person county. Some eighteen or twenty years ago it was accidentally broken in three pieces, but its efficacy in affecting cures seems to be undiminished. To show how it was valued, it sold about twenty years ago for \$500 at the sale of the personal estate of my grandfather, the late Joseph Pointer, Esq., of Person county. Since the discovery of the Pasteur treatment for hydrophobia, not many people from a distance use the stone, but it has during recent years been applied for the bite of dogs, cats and other animals afflicted with hydrophobia as well as for the bites of snakes and spiders. There is a tradition in our family that about 100 years ago a gentleman came all the way from the State of Maine to be treated, and after having the stone applied, he returned home well and occasionally wrote my great-grandfather, saying that he had never been troubled from the bite of the dog which had rabies. I suppose there are other stones that effect cures, but, as you say in your editorial, 'the fame of the Pointer madstone and the works it has wrought have been known to North Carolinians for four generations.' Yours very truly,

"JOHN L. POINTER,

"High Tower, N. C., Dec. 13, 1900."

TARBORO.

DEATH OF HON. JOSEPH J. MARTIN.

(Special to Virginian-Pilot.)

Tarboro, N. C., Dec. 18.—Joseph J. Martin died this morning at 4 o'clock, aged 67 years. He was three times solicitor for the second district, Republican Congressman from the first district, and postmaster under Harrison and McKinley. He was a personal friend of President McKinley. He made a model postmaster.

Mr. Martin was very popular with all classes as a member of the Tarboro bar. He had a lingering illness and his death was expected. He leaves a widow, a daughter and four sons.

An All-round Shirt-waist Man.

(Charlotte Observer.)

Charlotte appears to hold a citizen who is a shirt-waist man right. The Monroe Enquirer of this week tells of him thus:

"It is said that the shirt-waist man will be more than ever in evidence next summer. A former citizen of this county, Mr. J. Martin, who moved to Charlotte some time ago, is strictly in style when shirt-waists for men are fashionable. For eighteen years Mr. Martin has been a coatless and vestless man. He goes in his shirt sleeves at all seasons and never takes cold and says that he has never had a headache and never been sick a day."

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A New and Complete Treatment, Consisting of PUPSTOCH'S, Capes of Ointment and two Boxes of Ointment, Small, mild and pleasant to take, especially adapted for children's use. 50 Cents per Box. NOTICE—The Genuine Iron Japanese Pile Cure for sale only by

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DIAMONDS, WATCHES, GOLD AND SILVERWARE

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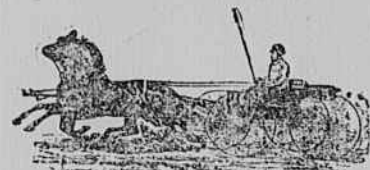
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500 Ladies' Pocket Books, all colors.....25c.	Ladies' Side Satchels.....25c.
500 Ladies' Pocket Books, real alligator.....25c.	500 Leather Card Cases.....25c.
500 Ladies' Pocket Books, sterling silver covers.....40c.	500 Leather Bill Rolls.....25c.
500 Ladies' Pocket Books, real alligator.....40c.	100 Leather Letter Cases.....50c.
500 Ladies' Finger Purses.....25c.	100 Leather Cigar Cases.....50c.
500 Ladies' Finger Purses, in walrus, morocco and seal, latest colors.....50c.	100 Leather Toilets—Fitted.....50c.
	100 Writing Tablets.....50c.
	100 Leather Music Rolls.....50c.

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SILK NECKWEAR, in all the latest shapes at 50c.
SILK SUSPENDERS, with sterling silver buckles, at \$1.75, \$2.25 and \$3.00.
SILK SUSPENDERS, with quadruple silver plated buckles, at \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00.
SILK SUSPENDERS, with gold plated buckles, from \$1.00 to \$2.00.
SILK SUSPENDERS, with nickel buckles, at 50c.
THE "BUCKINGHAM," a SILK CLOTHIER, at \$1.50—all colors.
ADLER'S KID GLOVES, in all the popular shades, at \$1.00 and \$1.50.
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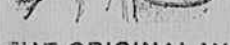
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